

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AT CAIRO

Special News Bulletin



Philadelphia, May 1, 1923.

Friends of the American University at Cairo:

Mrs. Lum and I have just returned from our first trip to Egypt. The entire bulletin is given over to us, because the "powers that be" believed that the things which proved interesting to us would be of interest to you.

It is our hope that those who, for various reasons, must stay in America may, through us, get a glimpse of Egypt as it is today; that those who have made the trip will have their interest renewed; and that those who have long talked of going to Egypt, may be led to make the trip and see things for themselves.

Very sincerely yours,

Hermann A. Sum

FROM NEW YORK TO CAIRO VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN

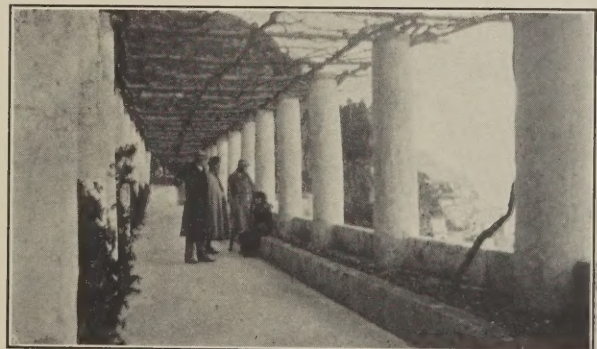
Anticipation sometimes affords as much satisfaction as realization. In spite of the fact that many a winter evening was spent in reading about Egypt and the Mediterranean countries and in poring over tourist pamphlets, with their vivid pictures and alluring descriptions, the realization of a Mediterranean cruise is far better than the grandest word picture that can be painted.

Leaving New York covered with a foot of snow, it gave one a comfortable and pleasing thrill to step off the boat at Madeira one week later into the warm May sunshine. This Portuguese island, just south of the Azores, was a veritable fairyland of flowers. The white stucco houses, with their red tiled roofs, seemed to be stuck on the side of the mountain and the terraced gardens looked like a series of flowery steps, as one approached them from the sea. Funchal, the chief



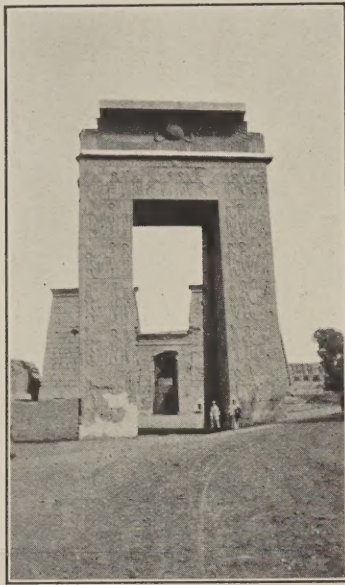
A BULLOCK CARRO.

This is the mode of transportation used in Madeira. A small boy runs ahead to encourage the bullocks, while a man runs behind to keep the carro from skidding into the curb and to throw a greased rag under the runners when they fail to glide smoothly over the tiny cobbles.



THE CAPUCCINI MONASTERY.

This famous old monastery overlooking the Bay of Salerno is now an Italian inn. It is quite an experience to sleep in a cell which was once occupied by a monk.



THE PORTAL OF EUEGETES

This handsome portal forms the southwest entrance to the Temple of Karnak. Note the winged sun disk and the reliefs representing King Euegetes praying and sacrificing to the gods.

Sorrento, and the Island of Capri, represents a combination of scenes of natural beauty and glimpses of ancient Roman life that is equaled nowhere else in the world. From Naples, we sailed south to Alexandria, and after a three hour ride on the Egyptian State Railway, Cairo, our destination, was reached.

THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

"Did you see King Tut's tomb?"

Invariably, this is the first question which our friends have asked us. It is evident that Americans, as a whole, are interested in Lord Carnarvon's discovery of King Tut-Ankh-Amen's tomb.

Yes, we saw King Tut's tomb early in February, soon after it had been opened by Lord Carnarvon, who was a fellow passenger of ours from Monaco to Alexandria.

The Valley of the Kings seems to have been the spot selected by most of the ancient monarchs for their burying place. The soft limestone rock of the mountains which border the Nile Valley offered good material for one whose ambition lay in the direction of building his own tomb.

Since the tomb of Amenhotep II is the best preserved, it is most worthy of further description. From the entrance, you descend by a steep flight of steps through several false chambers until at last you come to the real one. The ceiling of this room is



THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

A large number of tombs in the valley are shown in this picture. King Tut-Ankh-Amen's tomb is marked with an arrow.

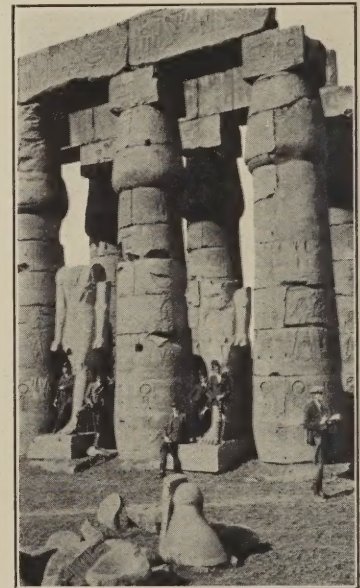
city, is a quaint spot with narrow cobbled streets, picturesquely costumed natives and bullock carros. (A picture of one of these carts is given at the bottom of the preceding page.)

A day later, we dropped anchor off Gibraltar. The life here, for the most part, centers around the British Garrison. There is, however, a Spanish section of considerable interest. The old Moors with their flowing robes, sandals, and red fezzes, furnished our first glimpse of oriental life.

The city of Algiers, our next stop, contrasted most strikingly the development which has taken place under a Christian civilization and under the Mohammedan. The governing Frenchmen have built up a beautiful section with clean streets and handsome buildings, while the Arab quarter has as narrow, dingy streets and dirty little native shops as one can imagine.

Sailing north to Monaco in southern France, we visited the Riviera, the famous winter resort of Europe. There is a beautiful mountain road which leads from Monaco through Monte Carlo to Nice, and returns along the sea coast. Our drive along this road gave us a view of the blue waters of the Mediterranean, the snow-capped Maritime Alps and the gorgeous villas overlooking the sea.

"See Naples and die," is an old saying which seems to express the feeling of most of those who visit this beautiful spot. The city of Naples with its Museum and San Martino Monastery, Mt. Vesuvius, Pompeii, the Amalfi Drive with its old Capuccini Monastery,



RUINS OF THE TEMPLE AT LUXOR

In this temple King Tut-Ankh-Amen completed the hypostyle hall which was started by one of his predecessors.

painted to represent the blue sky, with golden stars shining through. The tombs are lighted by electricity, and one can see on all four walls what appears to be a history of the King's reign, written in Egyptian hieroglyphics. The colors on both the ceiling and the walls are magnificently preserved today, 3300 odd years after they were painted. To make the whole thing seem still more realistic, the body of Amenhotep II is laid out in a mummy-shaped coffin, just as he was found.

Almost next door to this old tomb is that of his descendant, King Tut-Ankh-Amen. At the entrance of King Tut's tomb, we waited in vain for some one to appear with a golden chariot or a bouquet of flowers. The best we could get was a first hand description of the articles in the tomb

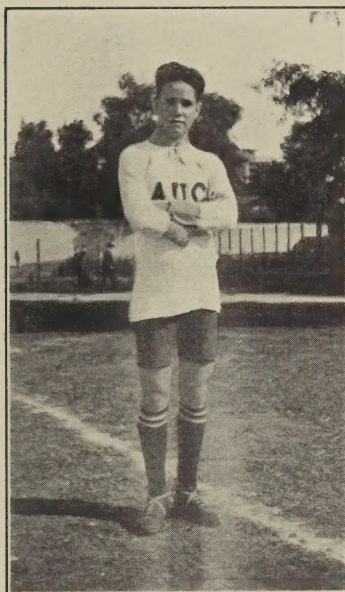
from some Egyptian friends who were fortunate enough to gain admittance. (A picture showing the Valley of the Kings, with King Tut's tomb in the foreground is shown on page 2.)

Across the river from the city of Thebes and the Valley of the Kings are the ruins of two ancient temples, one at Karnak and the other at Luxor. They are of very little interest unless you have an imagination. If you can sit there and picture the life of these ancient Egyptians, these old ruins are of intense interest. When one realizes that the Kings who built these temples are the ones who oppressed the children of Israel, it helps to tie it up with some of the knowledge already in our possession. It is almost unbelievable that these artistic and architectural achievements were accomplished in the 14th century B. C.

While all these tombs were interesting, our feelings were much the same as those of Dr. McClenahan. He once replied to a tourist who was surprised that he had not visited a certain ancient tomb, "We're so much interested in the *live* Egyptians that we don't have much time to bother with the dead ones."

A STRIKING CONTRAST

The famous Azhar University is a Mohammedan institution



CAPTAIN OF THE UNIVERSITY FOOT-BALL TEAM.

He is a splendid example of the high type of young Egyptians who are enrolled in the University.

fare to the pyramids, across the street is the Ministry of War and Agriculture, while nearby are the homes of the American Minister and Lord Allenby, the High Commissioner. The building itself is an old pasha's palace, surrounded by several smaller buildings and a beautiful garden, with a never failing supply of flowers and occasional groups of palms and eucalyptus trees. As we enter, the two hundred students of the College of Arts and Science are at work in their class rooms. Instead of apparatus in glass cases, the young men are performing chemistry experiments with their own hands in an up-to-date laboratory, under the guidance of a technically trained American professor. The college library is filled with students who are reading and studying, but with none of the mumbling and swaying that we saw in the Mohammedan University.

The national leaders of Egypt are one in their opinion that the supreme need of their nation is educated leaders with strong moral character. As one turns from the Azhar and looks at this American University and at the fine young Egyptian undergraduates, it needs no prophet to see graduates of the latter holding positions of great leadership in the Egypt of tomorrow.



DR. WATSON WITH TOURISTS

At the right can be distinguished a beggar with outstretched hand. He is typical of a large number of people in Egypt, whose continual cry is for "bakshish."

of learning which draws its students from the entire Mohammedan world. The classes are conducted in an open court, where from fifteen to twenty students composing a class, sit cross-legged around an old sheik, their teacher. Most of the classes are on the Koran, with now and then one in geography or arithmetic, as part of their "university" training. In private rooms around the sides of the open court are students from countries other than Egypt—Sudan, Abyssinia, Arabia, and China. In its "palmy" days, this University boasted of twelve thousand students. To-day, we are told, there are about three thousand. The scientific department consists of a few chemical specimens, a telescope, and some scales, all kept in glass cases, to be looked at but never used. There is an excellent library of Arabic literature but this is also carefully guarded and seldom if ever used by the students.

From this greatest of all Mohammedan institutions of learning, we wend our way through the narrow, dirty streets of the native section, with heavy hearts as we think of this additional weight which Egypt must carry around her neck.

At last, we come upon the American University, with the stars and stripes floating over it. What a thrill it gives you to see "Old Glory" in these foreign surroundings! The University is ideally situated about fifty yards from the main thorough-



ENTRANCE TO THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

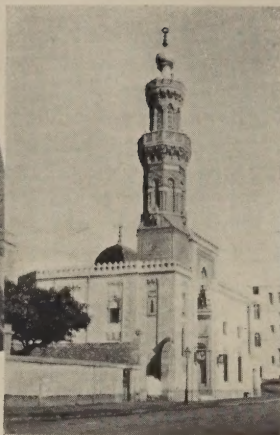


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A SUNDAY PREACHING SERVICE

The group shows some of those who attended the preaching service in the mud village, described in this bulletin. Mr. Currie, with the student interpreter, can be readily distinguished.



A CAIRO MOSQUE.

There are over one thousand mosques in Cairo. This one shows the style of architecture employed in most of them.



A MUD VILLAGE

This view of a mud village was taken from the top of the Temple of Karnak. The Nile and the mountains containing the Valley of the Kings can be seen in the background.

PREACHING IN A MUD VILLAGE

Sunday morning bright and early we started for the mud village. In these villages the houses are made of mud bricks, just like the children of Israel made in Bible times. Although the houses are few, the inhabitants are very numerous. As we went down the street through the village, we gathered quite a crowd and when we arrived at the house of the *amdah* (mayor) there was a good sized group of the fellahin who crowded into the little room.

Since there was no objection upon the part of the village authorities, we started a regular Christian service. Mr. Currie, one of the University teachers, conducted the service through one of the Egyptian boys from the University, who acted as interpreter. The whole thing was very simple and informal. After an opening prayer, there followed a Bible story. The Bible, with its oriental illustrations, is real to these folks. As one young American put it, "They just ate it up." It was different from services in this country, for the natives repeatedly interrupted with questions and during the most interesting part of the story, they insisted on serving coffee to their guests. At the close of the service, tracts with simple stories and colored pictures were distributed. After much hand-shaking and well-wishing, they bade us good-bye and begged us to return to tell them some more about Jesus. The next week the men will go back again, and as the interest grows, the wives of the faculty members will go out to teach the women.

So far, only a start has been made, but it gives evidence of growing into a constructive piece of Christian work for these needy village folks. It is good for the fellahin, for the teachers who do the preaching, and for the Egyptian students who do the interpreting. The whole thing is an outgrowth of a desire on the part of the Students' Union to be of service to some one else. (Pictures of a mud village and of this preaching service are given above.)

IS THE UNIVERSITY PRODUCING RESULTS?

The supporters of any new project are anxious to know whether it is producing results or merely looking hopefully to the future. Although not yet three years old, Cairo University is producing results worthy of an old established institution. Evidence to substantiate this statement is seen in a great many different directions. There is only space here to enumerate a few of the spheres of influence.

Influence on the Students

(1) A large number of selected Egyptian students are showing their appreciation of the high grade instruction which they are receiving by the attitude of seriousness which they show toward their work.

(2) Several young men have come from lives of immorality into a clean, wholesome outlook on life solely through the influence of the University.

(3) As a result of the course in physical training, the students have grown from a group who scorned physical exercise of all kinds to the place where they thoroughly enjoy athletics and recognize the importance of physical vigor for success in life. The University is doing pioneer work in the direction of compulsory physical training. None of the other institutions in Cairo require this of their students.

Influence in the Community

(1) The lectures given in the University chapel on subjects designed to uplift the general moral tone of the community life are having a marked effect. During a recent series of lectures on sex education for the students of Cairo, the auditorium could have been filled twice for the entire course.

(2) The village preaching described in another part of this bulletin furnishes additional evidence of the wholesome influence of the University on the community life.

(3) Through the contacts of the members of our faculty with the business and professional men of the city, influential men have been led to a change in their present mode of living and in the influence which they in turn exert upon the city.

Influence upon Missionary Work

(1) The University's chief contribution in this direction lies in supplying an up-to-date school for teaching the Arabic language to the young missionaries.

(2) The University representatives on the various interdenominational committees try to offer their best to help in all the work which aims to extend Christ's Kingdom in Egypt and the Mohammedan world.

Influence on the Nation

(1) Although it is a little early to claim much in this direction, there are places where the influence of the University has had effect on national life. The clauses in the new Egyptian constitution guaranteeing religious liberty, came into existence largely through the work of a member of our faculty.